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BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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F O R  
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Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Bishop Auckland.



BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT 1952.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The following is the Report for the year 1952.

AREA AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area of the district is 9,336 acres. The estimated population in mid 1952 was 35,650, a decrease of 260 on the previous year's estimate.

The rateable value is £155,669, and the product of a ponny rate £581.

The number of inhabited houses, according to the Council's rate books at the end of 1952 was 10,685.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following extracts from the vital statistics of the district the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are based on the above mentioned estimated population.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate.	600	316	284
Illegitimate.	22	12	10
TOTAL.	622	328	294

The live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 17.44. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 15.3.

Still Births.	Total.	Males	Females
Legitimate.	14	10	4
Illegitimate.	1	1	0
TOTAL.	15	11	4

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 23.5

Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 0.42

The corresponding rates for England and Wales were 22.6 and 0.35 respectively.

## DEATHS.

After correction for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths a total of 414 (243 males and 171 females) deaths of residents were recorded during the year, giving a death rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1952 was 11.3. Cardio-vascular diseases accounted for 219 of the total deaths.

### Deaths of infants under one year of age.

Thirteen male and four female infants died during the year before attaining their first birthday. All were legitimate.

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - 27.3.

The infant mortality rate in 1950 and 1951 was just over 35.0. The corresponding rate for England and Wales in 1952 - 27.6.

The infant mortality rate here recorded constitutes a decided low record for the district, the previous lowest record being 33.1 in the year 1949. The marked and rapid reduction in infant mortality must surely be accepted as one of the most gratifying accomplishments of our generation so far as vital statistics are concerned. Twenty eight years ago the infant mortality rate in Bishop Auckland was 117 and in the late Rural District of Auckland 85.2 - a mean of over 101 per 1,000 births. Thus in the twenty eight years in which I have served the district as a Medical Officer, there has been a 75% reduction in the infant mortality rate. The great bulk of the credit for this fine achievement must go to the Maternity and Child Welfare section of our social workers, although they will not be reluctant to admit that other matters, such as education in hygiene, improved housing, improved sanitation, bring local district councils and their staffs into at least some share of the credit

The following table gives the number of deaths recorded from various causes during the year.

Causes of Death.	M	F	Total.
Cancer.	38	28	66
Leukaemia.	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	43	28	71
Coronary disease, angina.	40	15	55
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	4	5
Other heart disease.	38	37	75
Carried forward.	161	113	274



Causes of Death.	M	F	Total
Brought forward.	161	113	274
Pneumonia.	11	6	17
Bronchitis.	13	6	19
Other respiratory diseases.	1	1	2
Gastric or duodenal ulcer.	5	0	5
Gastritis and enteritis.	2	1	3
Nephritis.	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate.	8	0	8
Congenital malformations.	2	3	5
Motor vehicle accidents.	2	0	2
All other accidents.	5	4	9
Other circulatory diseases.	6	7	13
Suicide.	3	5	8
Tuberculosis (all forms).	5	7	12
Influenza.	0	0	0
Other infections (notifiable).	2	4	6
All other causes than those specified.	17	14	31
TOTAL.	243	171	414

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases notified and the deaths from the various infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis) which occurred among the district's residents during 1952.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total No. of cases after corrected diagnosis.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Meningococcal Infection.	2	2	1	0
Scarlet Fever.	164	158	110	0
Smallpox.	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria.	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever.	2	0	2	0
Pneumonia.	53	53	0	17
Puerperal Pyrexia.	7	7	0	0
Measles.	229	228	0	0
Whooping Cough.	185	184	1	0
Erysipelas.	6	6	0	0
Dysentery	1	1	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis.	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	3	3	1	0
Food Poisoning.	2	2	0	0

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows, in arrangement by age groups, the number of new cases notified and of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the district during the year

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
15 -	4	7	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 -	8	5	-	1	-	3	-	-
35 -	3	3	-	-	2	1	-	-
45 -	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 -	4	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
65 and over.	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	1
Totals.								
1952.	23	21	1	3	6	9	-	2
1951.	18	11	-	2	11	10	1	-
1950.	22	32	3	8	9	5	1	4
1949.	17	21	7	6	12	9	1	2
1948.	25	24	6	10	11	11	2	1
1947.	13	27	7	14	11	12	3	3
1946.	34	15	19	15	11	11	1	1
1945.	24	20	20	7	15	9	5	6
1944.	18	20	11	12	7	10	2	3

The twenty three new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in males included two inwardly transferable notifications in respect of persons who, having been notified elsewhere, have come to reside within this district. Of the fifteen deaths recorded from pulmonary tuberculosis three were of persons who prior to their decease had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

## SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES.

### (a) Immunisation against Diphthoria.

According to returns of the County Medical Officer of Health, 322 children resident in this area received full courses of immunisation treatment during 1952, and 152 children who had been treated in infancy received "booster" doses of the immunising agent. These figures are a slight improvement on those for the preceeding year when the numbers were 319 and 133 respectively. With a view to increasing the number of immunised children in the area I have

arranged, in co-operation with the County Medical Officer of Health, to launch an immunisation campaign in mid June, 1953. It is hoped by this campaign to treat 1,000 children and to administer 1,400 "booster" doses at treatment sessions which will be conducted in our local county schools.

(b) Food Inspection.

During the year your two Sanitary Inspectors continued to inspect the carcasses of animals slaughtered at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse, Bishop Auckland. The following is a summary of their inspections during 1952.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. slaughtered.	4296	700	575	20066	2664
No. inspected.	4021	662	561	19221	2390
% inspected.	93.7	94.57	97.5	99.7	89.7
<u>CONDEMNATIONS.</u>					
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>					
Whole Carcasses.	13	11	2	0	8
Weight (Tons).	2.940	1.24	0.014	0	0.270
% condemned.	0.302	1.57	0.347	0	0.300
Part Carcasses.	267	106	1	0	24
Weight (Tons).	1.780	0.82	0.004	0	0.107
% condemned.	0.780	1.92	0.097	0	0.301
Total Weight (Tons)	4.720	2.06	0.018	0	0.377
Total % condemned.	1.080	3.47	0.444	0	0.601
<u>OTHER DISEASES.</u>					
Whole Carcasses.	15	17	2	38	6
Weight (Tons).	1.580	2.59	0.029	0.511	0.229
% condemned.	0.373	2.91	0.347	0.188	0.227
Part Carcasses.	2602	412	8	146	59
Weight (Tons).	5.370	1.29	0.023	0.221	0.096
% condemned.	8.130	9.09	0.610	0.243	0.742
Total Weight (Tons).	6.950	4.04	0.052	0.732	0.325
Total % condemned.	8.503	12.00	0.957	0.431	0.969
Full Total Weight (Tons).	11.670	6.10	0.070	0.732	0.626
Full Total %.	9.583	15.41	1.397	0.431	1.573

The following other foodstuffs were condemned:-

327 tins meat; 63 tins ham; 844 tins fruit; 193 jars fruit; 780 tins vegetables; 18 tins soup; 2 tins spaghetti; 53 tins milk; 31 tins jam; 6 jars jam; 35 tins fish; 5 jars paste; 4 bottles sauce; 2 jars pickles; 40½ lb. bacon; 240 lb. frozen liquid egg; 60 lb. sultanas; 20 lb. butter; 4lb. sweets; 37lb. beef sausage; 42 lb. fish; 4 pkts. dates; 20 lb. prunes.

All the condemned food above mentioned was voluntarily surrendered. In no instance was seizure necessary nor was there any prosecution for the exposure for sale of unsound food.



(c) Conversions to Water Carriage.

During the year a total of 322 closets of the conservancy type were converted to water carriage system.

At the end of the year the various types of sanitary conveniences in the district were as follows:-

Water Closets.	8496.
Ashclosets.	3846.
Ashpit Privies.	176.

(d) General Housing Repairs.

The following is a summary of repairs effected and nuisances abated during 1952 as a result of formal and informal notices.

Public Health Act, 1936.	No. of informal notices.	No. of formal notices by order of the Council.	No. of nuisances abated and housing defects romedied.
Dwelling Houses - Structural defects or foul conditions.	357	77	296
Lodging Houses.	5	--	5
Ashpits and Privies.	56	22	51
Deposits of refuse.	7	2	7
Water Closots.	14	14	14
Defective drains.	67	51	66
Animals improperly kept.	1	--	1
Dairies and Milk shops.	16	--	16
Other nuisances.	213	18	171

NEW HOUSES.

During the year a total of 174 new houses were provided in the area, of these 148 were built by the Council, 20 were built by private enterprise or by a Housing Association, and 6 were provided by adaptation of premises which had previously been used for purposes other than dwelling houses.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

As local licensing officer on behalf of the Ministry, I issued 31 licences during the year. Twenty eight of those licences involved repairs and improvements to dwelling houses to the value of £8,916, which was within the financial ceiling assigned to this authority by the Ministry. Three licences to a total value of £6,500 were issued with the permission of the Ministry.



The number of licences issued by the Regional Officer to the Ministry of Works in respect of premises other than dwellings in this district was 68 and the capital value of the works involved was £76,364.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

During the year your rodent operator dealt with a total of 170 rat infestations. Of these 12 were on Council properties (tips, sewage disposal works etc.), 25 were on privately owned property serviced at the owners' expense, and 131 were on premises involving a total of 377 dwelling houses serviced on block control free of charge.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 142 factories and workshops on the district's register of which 19 are factories in respect of which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforceable by the local authority. Forty four inspections of factories and workshops were made by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year resulting in the discovery of one defect from lack of cleanliness and two defects from insufficient or defective sanitary conveniences. In two of the three cases the defects were remedied as a result of informal notice; the other was referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

An appendix to this report shows comparisons in vital statistics and incidence of infectious diseases during the past ten years.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,  
Yours obedient servant,

H.G. DONALD.

Medical Officer of Health.



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APPENDIX. - Comparisons in Vital Statistics etc., during the years 1943 - 1952.

VITAL STATISTICS.	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Birth Rate.	18.8	20.5	20.3	22.6	25.6	21.5	20.9	17.9	18.8	17.4
Death Rate.	14.5	13.9	14.4	13.5	14.7	21.8	11.7	12.2	14.5	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate.	81.6	62.9	59.1	54.2	49.1	50.5	33.1	35.0	35.5	27.3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - Notifications and Deaths.

	1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952	
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	10	-	2	-	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	3	-	4	1	1	-	2	-	3	1	3	1	-	-	3	-	2	-	2	-
Diphtheria.	88	1	29	2	37	1	12	-	3	-	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	12	-	3	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Erysipelas.	10	-	10	1	10	-	13	-	8	-	10	-	3	-	7	-	1	-	6	-
Measles.	962	1	22	3	614	-	54	-	289	-	284	-	343	-	770	2	175	-	228	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	-
Pneumonia.	32	18	24	16	13	16	19	14	11	25	8	16	7	19	24	20	31	24	53	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	2	3	1	4	-	1	-	2	-	7	-	-	-	1	-	7	-
Scarlet Fever.	109	-	75	-	53	-	41	1	68	-	91	-	89	-	133	-	61	-	158	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	124	1	19	2	124	1	113	-	120	1	53	1	105	-	183	1	123	-	184	-
	1333	24	188	27	858	20	261	15	517	28	460	18	568	19	1140	23	398	24	644	11

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Pulmonary Cases.	32	38	44	49	40	49	38	54	29	44
Non Pulmonary Cases.	28	23	27	34	21	16	13	11	2	4







